

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

In the claims, please cancel claims 12, 23 and 26, and amend claims 1-11, 13-22, 24, 25 and 27-35 as shown in the attached set of pending claims.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended): A method of ~~[[softening]]~~ treating textile fibers comprising the steps of:  
    ~~[[blending]] forming [[an]] a softening solution including Aloe Vera solution suitable for~~  
    ~~improving the comfort, softness, and texture of textile fibers, and capable of~~  
    ~~absorption directly into textile fibers;~~  
    ~~[[impregnating]] infusing~~ textile fibers with said Aloe Vera softening solution; and  
    drying said ~~[[impregnated]]~~ textile fibers.
2. (currently amended): ~~Softened textile~~ Textile fibers treated in accordance with the method of  
    claim 1, comprising:  
    textile fibers; and  
    ~~impregnate said textile fibers with Aloe Vera solution according to the method of claim~~  
    1.
3. (currently amended): A method of ~~[[softening]]~~ treating textile fibers comprising the steps of:  
    ~~[[blending]] forming [[an]] a softening solution including Aloe Vera solution suitable for~~  
    ~~improving the comfort, softness, and texture of textile fibers, and capable of~~  
    ~~absorption directly into textile fibers;~~  
    providing a roller with an outer surface;  
    rotating said roller;  
    applying a coating of said Aloe Vera softening solution onto said outer surface of a roller;  
    ~~[[running]] moving~~ textile fibers in substantial tangent contact with said ~~over the outer~~  
    surface of said roller ~~through said coating of said Aloe Vera solution;~~  
    ~~[[impregnating]] infusing~~ said textile fibers with said Aloe Vera softening solution; and  
    drying said ~~[[impregnated]]~~ textile fibers.

4. (currently amended): ~~Softened textile~~ Textile fibers treated in accordance with the method of claim 3, comprising:  
~~textile fibers; and~~  
~~impregnate said textile fibers with Aloe Vera solution according to the method of claim 3.~~

5. (currently amended): [[A]] The method of [[softening]] treating textile fibers according to claim 3 further comprising the [[further]] step of:  
[[filling]] providing a reservoir [[with]] containing said Aloe Vera softening solution;  
[[pumping]] conducting said Aloe Vera softening solution from said reservoir to said outer surface of said roller through a tube and through a means for application;  
and  
applying a coating of said Aloe Vera solution onto said outer surface of said roller using said means for application.

6. (currently amended): [[A]] The method of softening textile fibers according to claim 5 further comprising the [[further]] step of:  
controlling the volumetric flow rate of said Aloe Vera solution passing through said means for application; and  
metering the volumetric application of said Aloe Vera softening solution to said outer surface of said roller so as to impregnate said textile fibers and derive consistent quality and not impair the conversion of said textile fibers into yarn.

7. (currently amended): A method of [[softening]] treating textile fibers according to claim 6 comprising the further steps of comprising the steps of:  
forming a softening solution including Aloe Vera;  
providing an upper roller with an outer surface;  
rotating said upper roller;

applying ~~a coating of said Aloe Vera~~ softening solution onto said outer surface of an  
upper roller using said means for application;  
moving textile fibers in substantially tangent contact with said outer surface of said upper  
roller;  
locating a lower roller ~~[[below]]~~ in a generally parallel relationship to said upper roller to  
~~[[sandwich]]~~ simultaneously engage said textile fibers passing therebetween in  
~~constant contact with both rollers; and~~  
~~propelling said upper roller and said lower roller to drive said textile fibers forward.~~  
infusing said textile fibers with said Aloe Vera softening solution; and  
drying said textile fibers.

8. (currently amended): ~~Softened textile~~ Textile fibers treated in accordance with the method of  
claim 7, comprising:  
textile fibers; and  
~~impregnate said textile fibers with Aloe Vera solution according to the method of claim~~  
7.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein ~~said means for application being a~~  
nozzle softening solution contains 0.026% aloe vera by volume.

10. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method of [[softening]] treating textile fibers according to  
claim 7 further comprising the further step of:  
conveying the textile fibers to a storage container after contact with the upper and lower  
rollers driving said textile fibers forward between said upper and said lower roller  
and into a storage container.

11. (currently amended): An improved fiber stretch break machine in which continuous filament  
fiber is stretch broken into smaller, discrete fiber lengths, wherein the improvement  
comprises:  
treating the fibers after the continuous filament fiber has been stretch broken into smaller,  
discrete fiber lengths in accordance with the method of claim 7A method of

~~softening textile fibers according to claim 8 comprising the step of:  
incorporating said method of softening textile fibers as part of a fiber stretch break  
machine.~~

[12. (canceled)]

13. (currently amended): The method of treating textile fibers according to claim [[12]] 11,  
wherein said textile fibers [[being]] is made from acrylic[[ fibers]].

14. (currently amended): The method of treating textile fibers according to claim [[12]] 11,  
wherein said textile fibers [[being]] is made from wool[[ fibers]].

15. (currently amended): The method of treating textile fibers according to claim [[12]] 11,  
wherein said textile fibers [[being]] is made from cotton[[ fibers]].

16. (currently amended): The method of treating textile fibers according to claim [[12]] 11  
wherein said drying step further comprises; ~~wherein~~ drying said [[impregnated]] textile  
fibers at ambient air temperature.

17. (currently amended): ~~Softened textile~~ Textile fibers treated in accordance with the method of  
claim 11. comprising:  
textile fibers; and  
~~impregnate said textile fibers with Aloe Vera solution according to the method of claim~~  
~~12.~~

18. (currently amended): A method of [[softening]] treating yarn comprising the steps of:  
[[blending]] forming [[an]] a softening solution including Aloe Vera solution suitable for  
improving the comfort, softness, and texture of yarn, and capable of absorption  
directly into yarn;  
[[impregnating]] infusing textile fibers with said Aloe Vera softening solution; and  
drying said [[impregnated]] yarn.

19. (currently amended): ~~Softened yarn~~ Yarn treated in accordance with the method of claim 18.

~~comprising:~~

~~yarn; and~~

~~impregnate said yarn with Aloe Vera solution according to the method of claim 18.~~

20. (currently amended): A method of ~~[[softening]]~~ treating textile yarn comprising the steps of:

~~[[blending]] forming [[an]] a softening solution including Aloe Vera solution suitable for improving the comfort, softness, and texture of yarn, and capable of absorption directly into yarn;~~

providing a roller with an outer surface;

rotating said roller;

applying a coating of said Aloe Vera softening solution onto said outer surface of a roller;

~~[[running]] moving [[the]] yarn in substantially tangent contact with said over the outer surface of said roller through said coating of said Aloe Vera solution;; [[and]]~~

~~[[impregnating]] infusing said yarn with said Aloe Vera softening solution; and drying said [[impregnated]] yarn.~~

21. (currently amended): ~~Softened yarn~~ Yarn treated in accordance with the method of claim 20.

~~comprising:~~

~~yarn; and impregnate said yarn with Aloe Vera solution according to the method of claim 20.~~

22. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method of ~~[[softening]]~~ treating ~~[[textile]]~~ yarn according to claim 20 further comprising the ~~[[further]]~~ step of:

~~[[filling]] providing a reservoir [[with]] containing said Aloe Vera softening solution;~~

~~placing part of said outer surface of said roller into said Aloe Vera softening solution in said reservoir to substantially bathed said outer surface in said Aloe Vera softening solution;~~

~~revolving said roller to apply said coating of said Aloe Vera solution on said outer surface of said roller;~~

~~driving said yarn forward at a rate that promotes optimal yarn impregnation; and  
replenishing [[constantly]] said coating of said Aloe Vera softening solution in said  
reservoir on said outer surface of said roller.~~

23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended): [[A]] The method of [[softening]] treating [[textile]] yarn according to  
claim 22 further comprising the [[further]] step of:  
[[varying]] controlling the [[propelling]] rotation speed of said roller to optimize the  
absorption rate of said Aloe Vera solution into each type of yarn.

25. (currently amended): An improved continuous steam bulker machine of the type in which  
textile fibers are made into yarn, wherein the improvement comprises:  
treating the yarn output by the continuous steam bulker machine in accordance with the  
method of claim 24. A method of softening textile yarn according to claim 24  
comprising the further step of:  
~~incorporating said method of softening textile yarn on a continuous steam bulker  
machine.~~

26. (canceled)}

27. (currently amended): A method of [[softening]] treating textile yarn according to claim  
[[25]] 24 comprising the further step of:, wherein said softening solution contains  
0.026% aloe vera by volume. locating said method of softening textile yarn as the last  
operation at the end of said continuous steam bulker machine resulting in a uniformly  
consistent application of said Aloe Vera solution.

28. (currently amended): The method of treating yarn according to claim [[27]] 24 wherein said  
drying step further comprises; wherein drying said [[impregnated]] yarn at ambient air  
temperature.

29. (currently amended): The method of treating yarn according to claim [[28]] 24, wherein said yarn ~~[[being]] is made from acrylic~~[[ fibers]].

30. (currently amended): The method of treating textile fibers according to claim [[28]] 24, wherein said yarn ~~[[being]] is made from wool~~[[ fibers]].

31. (currently amended): The method of treating textile fibers according to claim [[28]] 24, wherein said yarn ~~[[being]] is made from cotton~~[[ fibers]].

32. (currently amended): The method of treating textile fibers according to claim [[28]] 24, wherein said yarn ~~being made from~~ having two plies of twisted textile fibers.

33. (currently amended): The method of treating textile fibers according to claim [[28]] 24, wherein said yarn ~~being made from~~ having three plies of twisted textile fibers.

34. (currently amended): The method of treating textile fibers according to claim [[28]] 24, wherein said yarn ~~being made from~~ having four plies of twisted textile fibers.

35. (original): Softened yarn comprising:

yarn; and

impregnate said yarn with Aloe Vera solution according to the method of claim 28.